



# 1979 Round 2 Saturday 31st March Lidcombe Oval



## Western Suburbs 22

def.

## Balmain 12

Don MOSELEY  
 Wayne SMITH  
 Ron BRODRICK  
 John DORAHY  
 Warren BOLAND  
 Graeme O'GRADY  
 Tom RAUDONIKIS (c)  
 Les BOYD  
 Ray BROWN  
 Bob COOPER  
 Bill CLOUGHESY  
 Jack JEFFRIES  
 Bruce GIBBS  
 Brian COOK

**Fullback**  
**Wing**  
**Centre**  
**Centre**  
**Wing**  
**Five-eighth**  
**Half**  
**Lock**  
**Second Row**  
**Second Row**  
**Front Row**  
**Hooker**  
**Front Row**  
**Replacement**

Allan McMAHON  
 Wayne MIRANDA  
 Dennis BENDALL  
 Wayne WIGHAM  
 Larry COROWA  
 Les MARA  
 Greg OLIPHANT (c)  
 Gary SPEARS  
 Steve LAVERS  
 Mick LIUBINSKAS  
 David GRANT  
 Frank MARINO  
 Rod MORRIS  
 Steve FREWIN

### Tries

Tom RAUDONIKIS  
 Les BOYD

Les MARA  
 Allan McMAHON

### Goals

John DORAHY (8)

Wayne MIRANDA (3)

### Match Description

**Balmain:** Full-back: A McMahon; three-quarters: W Miranda, D Bendall, W Wigham, L Corowa; five-eighth: L Mara; half: G Oliphant (c); forwards: G Spears, S Lavers, M Liubinskas, D Grant, F Marino, R Morris

**Western Suburbs:** Full-back: D Moseley; three-quarters: W Smith, R Brodrick, J Dorahy, W Boland; five-eighth: G O'Grady; half: T Raudonikis (c); forwards: L Boyd, R Brown, R Cooper, W Cloughesy, J Jeffries, B Gibbs

**Referee: D McDonald (Rugby League Week 5th April 1979)**

Balmain coach Ron Willey was biting critical of referee Don McDonald after his team were beaten 22-12 by Western Suburbs at Lidcombe Oval. Willey, who usually never criticises referees, had some harsh words to say about McDonald's handling of the match. "That was murder out there," Willey fumed after the match. "There is no way you can play football when things like that happen." Willey was referring to the massive penalty count against his team. McDonald awarded 19 penalties to Wests and eight to Balmain. .... Dorahy kicked eight goals from 10 attempts. A concerted effort has been made this season to try to improve scrummaging. But after watching some of the efforts yesterday it seems the move has failed dismally. The scrums were as bad as ever, probably worse in some instances. It seemed obvious McDonald was not getting the full cooperation of the players. Unless this happens all the best intentions of cleaning up scrummaging will fail. Perhaps it would have been better for the 10,856 spectators if McDonald had got rid of the troublesome ones in the scrums. Wests showed what formidable opponents they are on their home ground with their victory, their 12th in succession at Lidcombe since May, 1976. It looked as though they would be well-beaten when Balmain scored some fine tries to lead 10-4. But the remarkable Tom Raudonikis engineered a shock try just before half-time that put Wests right back in the match. There had been a strong Wests' raid when a forward pass went undetected. Balmain were penalised and committed the cardinal sin when they trooped back towards their line, turning their backs. Raudonikis spotted this and quickly called for a play with Dorahy taking a quick tap, passing to him and he raced over unopposed. Despite all the criticism of McDonald's handling of the game the major criticism must be against Balmain for committing this schoolboy mistake. Four penalties in the first four minutes of the second half put Wests right on the attack. Dorahy kicked his fourth goal to put his team ahead 11-10 and from then on Balmain were never really in it. The crunch came 14 minutes from the end when lock Les Boyd shrugged off a couple of high tackles and plunged over. Boyd did well to stay on the field. He was knocked senseless in a tackle eight minutes after the start and it was two minutes before he could get back on his feet. He had a nasty gash in his mouth and was still dazed as he lay on the table after the game. "I was worried about him when I saw his legs start to twitch," Raudonikis said. But Boyd stayed on and his strength carried him over for the match-clinching try. Balmain had looked impressive in the first half when they scored their two tries. There was good lead-up work in both. In the first Greg Oliphant and Les Mara combined to give Allan McMahon a clear run to the line. Rod Morris and Gary Spears found the soft underbelly of Wests was up the centre and they made massive gains in two runs. This led to the second try, scored by Les Mara, backing up Steve Lavers. For the rest of the match, it was a scrappy disjointed effort that brought little joy for the crowd of 10,856. **(The Sun-Herald 1st April 1979)**

**Notes:** Balmain coach Ron Willey was bitterly disappointed with the refereeing and it was a match which lacked continuity because of the flow of scrum penalties. Mick Liubinskas, now playing for Balmain, was off injured after ten minutes. Les Boyd was flattened after eight minutes and did well to recover to score a late powerhouse try. Dorahy and Raudonikis were both outstanding and Dorahy's eight goals were critical. Ray Brown's defence was also impressive.